THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) to (c) The Children of non-resident Indians are eligible for admission to Colleges|Universities in India. However, respresentations are received from non-resident Indians about the problems faced by their children in seeking admissions o universities|colleges due to domiciliary qualifications. The University Grants Commission, which had also considered the suggestion to reserve seats for children of non-resident Indians in the universities in the country, felt that such reservations would not be appropriate. The Commission, however, felt that steps could be considered for relaxing the time schedule for submission of applications by non-resident Indians, and assisting them by providing information on equivalence of qualfications obtained by their children in foreign countries, etc. There is, however, no concrete proposal|scheme under consideration to provide Indian education to the children of non-resident Indians.

Modern hostel for Railway employees at Gwalior

2309. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a modern hostel for railwaymen at Gwalior;

(b) if so, whether this hostel has been well-equipped and fully furnished with all amenities;

(c) if so, what is the number of employees who would be entitled to avail of the facility and to what extent it would be beneficial to the employees; and

(d) whether such hostels are also being provided at other places in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir. However, a 40 bedded subsidised hostel has been set up at Gwalior for student children of Railway employees.

(b) The hosel is equipped with adequate amenities.

(c) All railwaymen whose pay does not exceed Rs. 1719|- per month are eligible for this facility. Student children of railway employees posted at outside stations lacking educational facilities, will greatly benefit from this facility in having uninterrupted studies.

(d) One such hostel is under construction at Indore.

Extension of Fazilka-Rewari Train upto Delhi

2310. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to extend the Fazilka-Rewari train up to Delhi and to convert it into a fast passenger train so as to provide a direct rail link for the people of Fazilka and the adjoining areas with Delhi; and

(b) if so, by when and if not, what are the reasons therefor

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWYAS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Due to operational and resource constraints.

Seminar on University autonomy

2311 SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact a seminar on university Autonomy and related issues was organised recently in Trivandrum